

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4237

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSIONIUSUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 3102

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NG

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE-
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT AND MULTILATERAL ISSUES

1. DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE MORING
JULY 3 ON OTHE MATTERS, I RAISED WITH HIM VARIOUS
MULTILATERAL IXSUESHRF INTEREST TO US INCLUDING
MIDDLE EAST,PUERTO RICO AND KOREA, FOLLOWING
WHICH HE COMMENTED WITH SOME DESPARI ON OAU
SUMMIT AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA.

2. I SAID SECRETARY'S LUSAKA
SPEECH HAD ENGAGED U.S. IN POLICIES TOWARD SOUTHERN
AFRICA WHICHMOST AFRICA GOVERNMENTS SHARE. SUPPORT
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FOR THESE U.S. POLICIES BOTH INTHIN AND OUTSIDE

THE U.S. WAS IMPORTANT TO SUSTAIN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES COULD HELP BY TAKING REALISTIC AND RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS AT UN AND AT SUCH MEETINGS AS NAC IN COLOMBO ON ISSUES VIEWED AS IMPORTANT BY U.S.

3. I REMINDED PRESIDENT I HAD TRIED FROM TIME TO TIME TO KEEP HIM INFORMED ON THOSE ISSUES WHICH AT ANY GIVEN TIME U.S. CONSIDERED IMPORTANT, IN THE HOPES THAT OUR FRIENDS WOULD TAKE OUR VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT IN FORMULATING THEIR OWN POSITIONS. LAST YEAR KOREA HAD BEEN ONCE SUCH ISSUE AND WE APPRECIATED SYMPATHETIC HEARING GON HAS GIVEN US. THIS YEAR OUR PARTICULAR CONCERNS WERE MIDDLE EAST, PUERTO RICO AND KOREA, ALL OF WHICH WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS IN THE COMING WEEKS. I SAID I THOUGHT WE HAD A GOOD UNDERSTANDING WITH NIGER ON KOREA AND THERE WAS NO NEED TO REVIEW THIS SUBJECT AT PRESENT. PRESIDENT NODDED AGREEMENT. ON MIDDLE EAST, IT WAS OUR HOPE THAT OAU, AS IT HAD LAST YEAR, WOULD REFRAIN FROM ANY CALL FOR ISRAEL'S EXPULSION FROM UN. WE ALSO HOPED TO AVOID REINFORCEMENT OF THE RACISM-ZIONISM RESOLUTION OF THE 30TH UNGA. SUCH RHETORIC MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR U.S. TO WORK FOR REALISTIC SOLUTIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND COMPLICATED OUR EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

4. AS FOR PUERTO RICO, I RECALLED I HAD MENTIONED SUBJECT TO THE PRESIDENT AT OUR LAST MEETING, (NIAMEY 2163) AT WHICH TIME HE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH SUBJECT. HE SAID HE KNEW WE HAD SENT AIDE-MEMOIRES ON PUERTO RICO TO MFA WHICH HE WAS PLANNING TO STUDY. I TOLD PRESIDENT I HAD WITH ME NEW STATEMENT SUMMARIZING OUR POSITION WHICH IS SQUARELY BASED ON CONCEPT OF SELF-DETERMINATION WHICH I WOULD LEAVE WITH HIM. PRESIDENT THANKED ME AND SAID HE WOULD READ THIS WITH INTEREST.

5. HAVING HEARD ME OUT, KOUNTCHE THEN LAUNCHED
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INTO COMMENTARY ABOUT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS. HE SAID HE WAS DEPRESSED AND PESSIMISTIC ABOUT CAPACITY OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO COME UP WITH SENSIBLE POLICIES. OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS IN NAURITIOUS HAD BEEN A DISGRACE AND THE MANY LONG SESSIONS HAD PRODUCED MORE CONTROVERSY THAN SOLUTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, OAU DELIBERATIONS HAD SET BACK BOTH DJIBOUTI AND WESTERN

SAHARA ISSUES, AND MOST OF THE TIME SPEARKERS WERE ENGAGED IN RABBLE-ROUSING ORATORY INSTEAD OF TRYING TO COME UP WITH RATIONAL POLICIES BASED ON ANRUNEMOTIONAL ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION. ONE OF THE GUILTY PARTIES WAS NIGER'S NEIGHBOR TO SOUTH (BENIN) WHO WAS BEHAVING VERY IRRESPONSIBLY. QUESTIONN AROSE WHETHER SOME OUTFRDE POWERE WAS PRODDING BENIN TO TAKE THESE EXTREME POSITIONS.I INTERJECTED AT THIS POINT TO SAY WE HAD SAME QUESTION REGARDING ANGOLA'S INSISTENCE ON FORCING ISSUE OF ITS ADMISSION TO UN WHICH HAD LEAD TO OUR VETO. PRESIDENT AGREED SAYING THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ANGOLA TO PRESS MATTER AT THIS TIME WELL BEFORE OPENING OF UNGA.

6. KOUNTCHE WENT ON TO SAY THAT SOME OF HIS NEIGHBORS, SPECIFICALLY BENIN, ALGERIA, LIBYA, WERE CONSTANTLY PRESSURING HIM TO ADOPT COMMON POSITIONS ON VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND FORMIN DJERMAJOYE HAD REPORTED FROM PORT LOUIS THAT HE WAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM DELEGATIONS OF THSE COUNTRIES TO GO ALONG WITH THEM. KOUNTCHE SAID HE TOLD DJERMAKOYE THAT EVEN THOUGH NIGER WAS CAUGHT IN A NUTCRACKER BY BENIN, ALGERIA, AND LIBYA, TIS WAS A GAME HE REFUSED TO PLAY. HE CONCLUDED THAT AFRICAN PROPENSITY TO ESPOUSE SO-CALLED PROGRESSIVE MEADURES AND TENDENCY TO GO OFF IN ALL DIRECTIONS DID NOT BODE WELL FOR OAU SUMMIOR FOR STABILITY IN AFIRCA, NOR DID IT BODE WELL FOR U.S. EFFORTS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO SOUTHER AFRICAN PRBLEMS BY DIALOGUE INSTEAD OF CONFRONTATION. HENCE HIS PESSIMISM.

COMMENT:.. CONTINUING TO ADHERE TO HIS MODERATE, PRAGMATIC VIEWS, KOUNTCHE IS CONCERNED ABOUT HIS COUNTRY'S SECURITY AND UNDEFENDED BORDERS, AND ANNOYED THAT
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MOREE REVOCTIONARY AND/OR POWERFUL NEIGHBORS KEEP PUTTING HIM ON SPOT AND PRESSURING HIM TO LINE UP ON SIDE OF ISSUES WHICH GOES AGAINST THE GRAIN. FREQUENTLY HE BENDS, AS ON NIGER VOTE AT OAU SUMMIT ON WESTERN SAHARA AS PRICE THAT MUST BE PAID IN CURRENT AFRICAN ENVIROMVENTVNAND IN ORDDE BUY TIME TO GET ON WITH DOMESTIC MATTERS AND DVELOPMENT WHICH ARE KOUNTCHE'S MAJOR CONCERNS. HECK

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